

December 20th

The O Antiphons



O Key of David, and Scepter of the house of Israel, Thou openest and no one closes, Thou closest and no one opens: come, and lead out of the prison the captive, who sits in darkness and the shadow of death!

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Clá-vis Dávid, et scéptum dómus Isra-el :
qui ápe-ris, et nemo cláudit; cláudis, et nemo ápe-
rit : véni, et éduc vinctum de dómo cárce- ris, sedén-
tem in ténébris et úmbra mórtis

CLAVIS DAVID means “Key of David.” Jesus is the Key to Heaven, Who unlocked Heaven’s gates when He died for our sins. He is *“the Holy One and the True One, He that hath the key of David”* (Apoc. 3:7). The Scribes and the Pharisees refused this Holy Key, Jesus. To them Jesus said: *“Woe to you Scribes, for you have taken away the key of knowledge: you yourselves have not entered in, and those that were entering in, you have hindered”* (Lk. 11:52). *“For if you believe not that I am he, you shall die in your sin”* (John 8:24). Jesus left the Key to Heaven with His Church, saying: *“I will give to thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in Heaven: and whatever you loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in Heaven”* (Mt. 16:9). *“He that heareth you, heareth Me; and he that despiseth you, despiseth Me and Him that sent Me”* (Lk. 10:16). If we want that Key to open for us the gate of Heaven, we must do what Jesus tells us to do: *“Why call you Me, Lord, Lord; and do not the things which I say?”* (Lk. 6:46). *“If you love Me, keep My commandments!”* (John 14:15). Let us prove our love and thereby get that Key to Heaven.